

# Suarmin language

**Suarmin**, or **Asaba**, is a Sepik language spoken in Sandaun Province, Papua-New Guinea. Alternative names are *Asabano*, *Akiapmin*, *Duranmin*.

*Glottolog* leaves it unclassified.

## Pronouns

Pronouns are:<sup>[3]</sup>

	sg	du	pl
1incl		adi	abe
1excl	a	nadi	nesine
2	abo	abodua	apa
3	yo	atadua	ata

## Noun classes

In Asaba, noun class affixes are suffixed to nouns. There are five noun classes. Examples:<sup>[3]</sup>

class	singular (ex.)	plural (ex.)	gloss (ex.)
class 1	nu- <b>bu</b>	nu- <b>le</b>	house(s)
class 2	mena- <b>du</b>	mena- <b>no</b>	pig(s)
class 3	kabia- <b>si</b>	kabia- <b>le</b>	stone(s)
class 4	moko- <b>ni</b>	moko- <b>le</b>	fork(s)
class 5	nomo- <b>so</b>	nomo- <b>l</b>	stone adze(s)

Class 1 is the default noun class.

Modifying adjectives agree with head nouns in class:<sup>[3]</sup>

na-bu    kamaya-bu  
tree-I.SG big-I.SG

‘tall tree’

kaiyebe-du    kamaya-du  
cassowary-II.SG big-II.SG

Suarmin	
Asaba	
Native to	Papua New Guinea
Region	Sandaun Province
Native speakers	140 (2000) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Sepik<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Leonhard Schultze<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Papi–Asaba<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Suarmin</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	seo
Glottolog	suar1238 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/suar1238</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

‘big cassowary’

## References

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1. Suarmin (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/seol/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
  2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Asabano" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/suar1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
  3. Foley, William A. (2018). "The Languages of the Sepik-Ramu Basin and Environs". In Palmer, Bill (ed.). *The Languages and Linguistics of the New Guinea Area: A Comprehensive Guide*. The World of Linguistics. 4. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 197–432. ISBN 978-3-11-028642-7.
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